



OPCW

Executive Council

101st Session
4 – 6 October 2022

EC-101/NAT.24
5 October 2022
ENGLISH only

ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR ALIREZA KAZEMI ABADI
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN TO
THE OPCW AT THE 101ST SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
UNDER AGENDA ITEM 10(H)**

Mr Chairperson,

The Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) should enjoy the financial and human resources needed to fulfil its well defined mandate. In this regard, the Programme and Budget of the OPCW, which was guided by the Organisation's core objectives, should be adopted by consensus and take into account the concerns of all the States Parties.

Unfortunately, this was not the case for the Programme and Budget of the Organisation for 2022 – 2023. It was adopted by voting and did not take into consideration the concerns of the States Parties properly.

It is evident that the current approach for drafting the revised Programme and Budget—in an omnibus format that consists of controversial parts, such as the Investigation and Identification Team (IIT)—will clearly cause more divergence and polarity among the States Parties.

In accordance with the Financial Regulations and Rules (Article 6.3c), the cash surplus shall be allocated among the States Parties. Meanwhile, funding the deficit from the 2020 cash surplus is not a sustainable or appropriate solution. In addition, the decision of Programme and Budget (C-26/DEC.11, dated 1 December 2021) has specified resources to finance the expenditure appropriated for 2022 – 2023.

Lastly, increasing the budget of the Organisation for 2023 will have negative consequences on the States Parties, many of which are already facing economic difficulties due to COVID-19 and other global hardships. Undoubtedly, budget discipline and saving on unnecessary expenses will help effectively reimburse this year's budget deficit as an appropriate solution.

Thank you, Mr Chairperson.

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